Implementation of NREGA in Jharkhand

994. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any projects are being implented in Jharkhand under the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the population of the districts covered in the first phase, the number of persons estimated to be availing of employment, the volume of funds allocated to Jharkand, *vis-a-vis* the number of persons actually availed of employment and the sum spent till the first half, with projection of the next half year;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to include more districts under the NREG scheme during the year 2007-08; and

(d) if so, the deails thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir. A total of 42571 works have been taken up, out of which 15836 have been completed and 26735 are in progress under NREGA in Jharkhand during 2006-07 (upto December, 2006).

(b) Entire rural population of 20 notified districts in its first phase are eligible under NREGA. The unit of entitlement is rural household under NREGA. Every rural household desirous of availing entitlement under NREGA is required to apply for job card to the Panchayat/ Programme Officer. Based on which it is issued to them. In all, 20.99 lakh job cards have been issued till December, 2006 in Jharkhand of which 5.41 lakh households were provided wage employment against the demand from 5.48 lakh households till the first half (upto September, 2006) during 2006-07. However, households provided employment have gone up to 8.46 lakh against the demand of 8.69 lakh upto December, 06. An amount of Rs. 486.19 crore have been released to

the districts of Jharkhand as central share upto 28th February, 2007. The State had utilized Rs. 234.40 crore upto September and Rs. 369.59 crore upto December, 2006, which is expected to go up substantially during the remaining three months of the current financial year which is peak demand season.

(c) and (d) The Union Budget 2007-08 envisages provision for inclusion of 130 more districts in second phase of the NREGA.

Extending NREG Programme in more districts

995. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the reach of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme to more districts than originally sanctioned; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the entire population below the poverty line in each of the designated districts under the programme has been covered as the sole beneficiaries of the Scheme; and

(c) to what extent the local Panchayats have been empowered and equipped in areas of NREG schemes to ensure proper monitoring and disbursement of wages including muster roll preparation and self-audit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Union Budget 2007-08 envisages provision for inclusion of 130 more districts in second phase of the NREGA.

(b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 is applicable in rural areas of the country and the act guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. NREGA is not restricted to BPL households. NREGA is demand based and Employment is to be provided only if a household applies for it,